

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00

AGRE-00 OES-07 DOE-15 SOE-02 ARA-10 /134 W

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0440

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1048

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR CH SO XW

SUBJ: SIAD VISIT TO PRC

REF: MOGADISCIO 807

1. SUMMARY: SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE ARRIVED IN PEKING APRIL 14 TO A HIGH LEVEL WELCOME BY PRC OFFICIALS, INCLUDING CHAIRMAN HUA. IN WELCOMING BANQUET SPEECHES BOTH SIAD AND HOST LI HSIEN-NIEN DENOUNCED SOVIET ACTIONS IN HORN. TALKS WILL PROBABLY FOCUS ON INCREASED CHINESE ECONOMIC AID FOR SOMALIA. END SUMMARY.

2. SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE ARRIVED IN PEKING APRIL 14 AND RECEIVED THE STANDARD CHINESE LAVISH WELCOME. HE WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG AND VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN. LI WAS HIS HOST AT A BANQUET THE SAME NIGHT AND AT OFFICIAL TALKS APRIL 15 AND 16. HUA RECEIVED THE SOMALI DELEGATION ON APRIL 16.

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3. WE HAVE AS YET NO INFORMATION ON THE CONTENT OF TALKS. IN LI'S BANQUET SPEECH, HE PREDICTABLY CASTIGATED "ACTS OF AGGRESSION AND EXPANSION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA BY THAT WILDLY AMBITIOUS SUPERPOWER," THUS PRECIPITATING A SOVIET WALKOUT. HE WAS NEVERTHELESS FAIRLY EVENHANDED IN HIS DENOUNCIATION OF SUPERPOWER ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA. WHILE CHARGING "ONE SUPERPOWER"

WITH SENDING MERCENARY TROOPS TO ANGOLA AND THE HORN, HE BLAMED THE OTHER (THE U.S.) FOR "STILL BOLSTERING THE RACIST REGIMES OF VORSTER AND SMITH IN ORDER TO PRESERVE ITS VESTED INTERESTS."

4. SIAD IN HIS REPLY, ATTACKED THE SOVIET UNION BY NAME FOR ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE HORN AND CALLED FOR A WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET AND CUBAN FORCES AND SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE OGADEN. HE REFERRED BRIEFLY TO THE RECENT ATTEMPTED COUP, WITHOUT SPECIFYING WHO THE COUP LEADERS' FOREIGN "MENTORS" WERE. HE REPEATED THE SOMALI POSITION THAT THE RED SEA AND INDIAN OCEAN SHOULD BE ZONES OF PEACE.

5. SIAD ALSO WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO THANK THE PRC FOR ITS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, RETURNING TO THIS SUBJECT THREE TIMES IN THE COURSE OF HIS SPEECH. REFERENCES TO CHINA'S "VITAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE," THE "SELFLESS AND REMARKABLE ASSISTANCE" GIVEN SOMALIA BY THE PRC "IN MANY FIELDS," AND "THE VANGUARD ROLE PLAYED BY CHINA IN EFFECTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE WARS OF LIBERATION AS WELL AS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL EMANCIPATION OF THE PEOPLE'S OF THE THIRD WORLD" ALL INDICATE THAT ECONOMIC AND PROBABLY MILITARY AID IS A MAJOR PURPOSE OF THE SOMALI PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

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6. THIS IMPRESSION IS STRENGTHENED BY THE LIST OF CHINESE PARTICIPANTS IN THE BILATERAL TALKS. IN ADDITION TO LI, VICE PREMIER KENG PIAO (A FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPECIALIST) AND FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA, THE CHINESE SIDE INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY, THE MINISTRY OF WATER CONSERVANCY AND POWER, THE MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES (CHINA(S AID), AND THE MILITARY. SIAD BARRE'S OWN DELEGATION IS A LARGE ONE, INCLUDING VICE PRESIDENT ISMAIL ALI ABUCAR, MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS ONER ARTEH GHALIB, BAKOL REGION CC REPRESENTATIVE ABDI WARSAME ISSAK, STATE PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIRMAN AHMED HABIB AHMED, CC ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS BUREAU CHAIRMAN IBRAHIM MEIGANG SAMATAR, SOCIAL AFFAIRS BUREAU VICE CHAIRMAN MOHAMED ALI NOUR, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER MOHAMED NOUR GALAL.

7. FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, SIAD'S TRIP TO CHINA SEEMS LIKE A LOGICAL MOVE FOLLOWING HIS BREAK WITH THE SOVIETS AND HIS INABILITY TO OBTAIN MUCH

WESTERN SUPPORT. CHINESE SUPPORT FOR HIS ADVENTURES
IN THE OGADEN HAS AT BEST BEEN LUKEWARM, HOWEVER.
SEVERAL RECENT ARTICLES IN THE PRC PRESS HAVE DRAWN
ATTENTION TO CHINESE ECONOMIC AID PROJECTS IN SOMALIA.
WHILE WE SUSPECT THE CHINESE MAY BE QUITE WILLING TO
INCREASE ITS ASSISTANCE IN THIS FIELD, A MOVE TOWARD
LARGE-SCALE MILITARY AID APPEARS MUCH LESS LIKELY.

8. WE WILL REPORT ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF SIAD BARRE'S
VISIT IF AND AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.
WOODCOCK

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